AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A device selecting apparatus for selecting an appropriate device from a number of devices connected to a network, said apparatus comprising:

a detecting unit which detects all the devices connected to said network;

an extracting unit which extracts profiles comprising information relating to categories of said devices;

a table creating unit which creates a table containing priority rankings for the use of said devices;

an integrated profile creating unit which creates an integrated profile comprising information obtained by integrating the profiles of said devices,[[;]] the integrated profile constituting a profile of an ideal virtual device having all the categories of said devices;

a user interface creating unit which creates a user interface enabling necessary categories to be selected from the categories which comprise the integrated profile created by said integrated profile creating unit; and

a selecting unit which selects a device as a device to be used out of said devices based on the selected categories and the table containing the priority rankings.

Claim 2 (cancelled):

Claim 3 (original): The device selecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said user interface creating unit creates a user interface which displays information relating to the categories comprising the integrated profile with respect to a user on a display screen and enables the user to select necessary categories from the categories displayed on said display screen.

Claim 4 (original): The device selecting apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising a memory unit which stores the profiles extracted by said extracting unit,

wherein, when said selecting unit has consulted the stored profiles and determined that there is no device comprising all the categories which have been selected via the user interface, said selecting unit selects said device out of said devices which comprises a part of the selected categories.

Claim 5 (original): The device selecting apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when a new category has been selected via said user interface after said device has been selected, said selecting unit reselects said device by including the category which has been selected this time by priority in said part of the categories.

Claim 6 (original): The device selecting apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said devices are printers.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A device selecting method for selecting an appropriate device from a number of devices connected to a network, said method comprising the steps of:

providing beforehand a table containing an integrated profile, comprising information obtained by integrating profiles comprising information relating to categories of said devices connected to said network, and priority rankings for the use of said devices,[[;]] said integrated profile also including a profile of an ideal virtual device having all the categories of said devices;

creating a user interface which enables necessary categories to be selected from the categories comprising the integrated profile; and

selecting a device as a device to be used out of said devices based on the selected categories and the table containing the priority rankings.

Claim 8 (cancelled):

Claim 9 (original): The device selecting method according to claim 7, wherein a user interface is created in the step of creating a user interface which displays information relating the categories comprising the integrated profile with respect to a user on a display screen and enables the user to select necessary categories from the categories displayed on said display screen.

Claim 10 (original): The device selecting method according to claim 7 further comprising a step of providing the profiles beforehand,

wherein, when the stored profiles have been consulted and it has been determined that there is no device comprising all the categories which have been selected via the user interface, said device out of said devices which comprises a part of the selected categories is selected in the step of selecting a device.

Claim 11 (original): The device selecting method according to claim 10, wherein when a new category has been selected via said user interface after said device has been selected, said device is reselected in the step of selecting a device by including the category which has been selected this time by priority in said part of the categories.

Claim 12 (original): The device selecting method according to claim 7, wherein said devices are printers.

Claim 13 (presently amended): A computer readable medium for storing instructions, which when executed by a computer, causes the computer to perform the steps of:

detecting all the devices connected to a network;

extracting profiles comprising information relating to categories of said devices;

creating a table containing priority rankings for the use of said devices;

creating an integrated profile comprising information obtained by integrating the profiles of said devices,[[;]] said integrated profile also including a profile of an ideal virtual device having all the categories of said devices;

creating a user interface enabling necessary categories to be selected from the categories which comprise the integrated profile; and

selecting a device as a device to be used out of said devices based on the selected categories and the table containing the priority rankings.

Claim 14 (cancelled):

Claim 15 (original): The computer readable medium according to claim 13, wherein a user interface is created in the step of creating a user interface which displays information relating the categories comprising the integrated profile with respect to a user on a display screen and enables the user to select necessary categories from the categories displayed on said display screen.

Claim 16 (original): The computer readable medium according to claim 13 further comprising a step of providing the profiles beforehand,

wherein, when the stored profiles have been consulted and it has been determined that there is no device comprising all the categories which have been selected via the user interface, said device out of said devices which comprises a part of the selected categories is selected in the step of selecting a device.

Claim 17 (original): The computer readable medium according to claim 16, wherein when a new category has been selected via said user interface after said device has been

selected, said device is reselected in the step of selecting a device by including the category which has been selected this time by priority in said part of the categories.

Claim 18 (original): The computer readable medium according to claim 13, wherein said devices are printers.